



News Release

ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE

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Hearing Set for Small Business Owners to Comment About Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

Chicago, IL – Small business owners, community leaders, representatives of trade associations, small government entities and small non-profit organizations concerned about excessive enforcement of federal rules can voice their complaints at a U.S. Small Business Administration Regulatory Fairness Board Hearing in Rockford on Friday, June 3rd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The hearing will be held at the Rock Valley College-Woodward Technology Center, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Room 117, Rockford, IL 61114.

SBA National Ombudsman Michael Barrera, members of SBA's Region V Regulatory Fairness Board, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear comments and complaints about regulatory enforcement and compliance.

"One of the biggest concerns small business owners face is unfair enforcement of federal regulations. They also worry about telling their stories because they fear retaliation by federal agencies," Barrera said. "Small business owners want to play by the rules and comply with federal regulations," he added, "and we want to encourage federal regulators to assist business owners with compliance rather than go straight to the penalty stage."

This forum offers small business owners a chance to express their concerns about federal compliance practices in SBA's Illinois District area.

Comments and complaints presented during the hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. This information will also be shared with federal officials in the Ombudsman's annual report to Congress, and with managers of federal regulatory agencies to assist them with their enforcement actions.

The National Ombudsman's authority to respond to comments on compliance issues is limited to federal regulatory enforcement matters and does not include concerns about obtaining federal contracts, regulations in general, or securing guaranteed loans.

The Rockford hearing is open to the public. Those wishing to testify should contact Gary Peele at (312) 353-7353, or by email at gary.peele@sba.gov before the hearing. Should a small business owner or representative be unable to attend, written testimony may be sent in advance of the hearing to be included in the public record.

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Comments and concerns about federal enforcement actions can be addressed directly to SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman at 1-888-734-3247 (REGFAIR). For more information about the national ombudsman and this hearing, you may visit the National Ombudsman's Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

For information on SBA's programs and services, call the Illinois District Office at (312) 353-4528. You may also visit SBA Illinois' website at www.sba.gov/il.

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For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive web site at www.sba.gov/il.

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